

## PEACE NOT WAR

November 8, 2004

**LEADER:** In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. (Invite persons present to pause for a few moments of silent recollection and to offer any special intentions.) At the center of the Christian teaching on peace and at the center of all Catholic social teaching is the focus on the transcendence of God and the dignity of the human person. The human person is the clearest reflection of God's presence in the world. All of the church's work in pursuit of both justice and peace is designed to protect and promote the dignity of every person. Each person not only reflects God, but is the expression of God's creative work and the meaning of Christ's redemptive ministry. We approach the problems of war and peace with fear and reverence. God is the Lord of life, and so each human life is sacred. Modern warfare with all its sophistication and advancement threatens the obliteration of human life on a previously unimaginable scale. As Remembrance Day approaches, our thoughts and prayers turn to peace not war. We remember all those whose lives have been lost or affected through war.

**READER:** He will wield authority over many peoples and arbitrate for mighty nations; they will hammer their swords into plowshares, their spears into sickles. Nation will not lift sword against nation, there will be no more training for war. (Micah 4:3-4)

**LEADER:** Lord God, You have made us with love and given us dignity and grace. How might we best respond to Your call to be reflections of Your love, dignity and grace? (Allow a moment for silent reflection).

**ALL:** Bless us with your peace O Lord.

**LEADER:** Lord God, Your Word challenges us to seek peace for ourselves and for our world. How might we best do this in our individual lives? (Allow a moment for silent reflection).

**ALL:** Bless us with your peace O Lord.

**LEADER:** Lord God, we believe that through Jesus, You will indeed sustain us. Guide us as we reflect on how best to take responsibility for peace in our own hearts, in our families, in our workplace, and in our world. Together let us pray that we become channels of God's peace. Lord, make us instruments of Your peace.

**ALL:** Where there is hatred, let us sow love.

**LEADER:** Where there is injury, pardon;

**ALL:** Where there is doubt, faith;

**LEADER:** Where there is despair, hope;

**ALL:** Where there is sadness; joy.

**LEADER:** O Divine Master, grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console;

**ALL:** To be understood, as to understand; to be loved, as to love. For it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

**LEADER:** Lord, fill us with peace. Help us to extend our own peacefulness to each other and to the world in which we live. Let us end our prayer by sharing the sign of peace.

**Reminder:** System Memorial Mass  
4:00 p.m. Today  
Our Lady of Lourdes Parish  
12<sup>th</sup> Street/Wiggins